

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2005. In that action: claims 8-10, 14-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Olds (USPN 5,878,415) and claim 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olds in view of Singhani (US Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/01014018).

Claims 8-11, 14-16, and 18-20 are pending in this application. Applicant submits that all claims are in allowable form and requests reconsideration of the rejections of the pending claims.

Independent claims 8 and 15 have both been rejected as anticipated by Olds. Olds relates to a hierarchical database and methods for controlling access to the hierarchical database. Both claims 8 and 15 relate to providing address information wherein the identification or address information includes hierarchal information. Further, both claims relate to limiting or restricting the generated or presented view of a shared directory to only address information including the specified hierarchal information. Applicant submits that Claims 8 and 15 are not anticipated by the prior art.

Olds fails to disclose retrieving identification information for an entity querying a shared database, wherein the entity identification information includes hierarchal information associated with the entity. Rather, Olds discloses a hierarchical database containing objects that are themselves, “organized hierarchically, as one or more trees. Each object in a tree (except the root object) has exactly one parent” (Column 1, Lines 37-39). Olds further describes the action of the hierarchical database, “[t]he propagator 68 grants or denies access to the target object 70 and its descendants based whether rights are granted by the access control list 74 (or some other

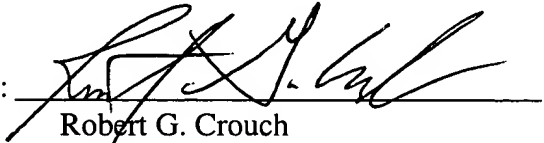
access control) and on whether these rights are inherited after application of the propagated constraints” (Column 8, Lines 64-67; Column 9, Lines 1-2). Thus, Olds teaches that the restriction or limitation is performed by an access control function, and that the hierarchical information embodied in the structure of the database is used to determine how access constraints propagate or are inherited. Olds teaches, “[t]he ‘inheritable’ flag allows inheritance of an access constraint on a specific property. The propagator enforces the inheritable access constraint by applying it to at least the target object” (Column 4, Lines 45-48). Thus, Olds teaches a hierarchical operation of access constraints within a database to provide for propagating inheritable constraints to descendants of a target object (Column 4, Lines 62-67; Column 5, Line 1) and fails to disclose, among other things, identification information for the querying entity including hierarchal information associated with the entity. Thereby, Olds fails to disclose and indeed teaches away from restricting or limiting the view of a shared directory based on the hierarchal information associated with or in the identification information of an entity querying the shared directory.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 8 and 15 are allowable over the art. Applicant also submits that Claims 9-11, 14, 16, and 18-20 are allowable over the art for the above reasons, being dependent on either Claim 8 or 15.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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